

Fig. 2E illustrates a generic flow diagram for selecting a prioritized transmission system utilizing either preprogrammed or operator inputted priority criteria. Once the presence of a signal to be transmitted is detected, as indicated at Start 150, the system defines a priority hierarchy 152 utilizing existing transmission information 154 and priority criteria 156. In one embodiment, priority criteria consists of cost, reliability, and security information preprogrammed into the control processor or manually entered into a keypad or other input device, as discussed further below.

Utilizing the priority hierarchy 152, the system selects the highest priority system 158, circuit "A" in Fig. 2E, and transmission is initiated by the YES decision and as indicated at circuit "A" 160. In the event the highest priority system is not available a NO decision then initiates the detection of the presence of the next priority system "B" 164 as indicated at decision block 162. If no system is available, an ERROR signal is generated at 166. Although Fig. 2E illustrates the use of only two transmission systems, it should be noted that the above process may be utilized with any number of systems.

ARGUMENT

The Examiner rejected claims 45, 46, 49 and 58 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,127,042 (Gillig et al).

Further, the Examiner rejected claims 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 56 and 58 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,002,937 (Young et al) and rejected claim 61 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gillig et al or Young et al in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,215,863 B1 (Bennett, III et al).